

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

September 14, 2011

The Honorable Michael B. Donley  
Secretary of the Air Force  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Dear Secretary Donley:

We write with deep concern for the recent action of the United States Air Force on the Expeditionary Combat Support System (ECSS). The stop work order on Release 1 Pilot D (R1PD) places the program in a level of uncertainty going forward which is alarming. We support the purpose and value of ECSS and strongly support the work of the Dayton workforce on this program. The continued support of the Air Force for ECSS is essential to realize the financial benefits and efficiencies of ECSS in support of our national defense.

ECSS is the major enabling eLog21 initiative reengineering logistics processes and providing the technology backbone for all additional eLog21 initiatives. The lack of integration with the current legacy systems makes it difficult to plan, locate, track or account for materiel throughout the supply chain. These challenges, along with the \$30 million a month the Air Force spends to sustain these legacy systems clearly demonstrate the need and support for ECSS. By the Air Force's own estimation, ECSS will result in \$12 billion in savings over the Future Year Defense Plan (FYDP). Beyond the stated cost savings, ECSS brings the Air Force into compliance with current laws, regulations and policies and places the service on a clear path to auditability by 2017.

The Department of Defense and the Air Force over the past two years initiated several analyses of alternative Courses of Action (CoA). In each CoA, whether it is DoD/AF led or sponsored, the consistent result is ECSS is the best approach. This was most recently confirmed by the February 18, 2011 ECSS Increment 1 Critical Change Report.

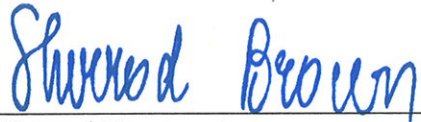
The program is currently experiencing a slight delay, largely in part to the Air Force incorporating emerging requirements, Logistics Financials (LogFins) and Product Lifecycle Management (PLM). Pilots A and B were both completed on time and on budget. Pilot C is slightly behind due at least in part to the inclusion of financial requirements, not originally in the scope of the program. We urge the Air Force to stay the course on transforming its logistics enterprise as a means to achieving auditability goals through the ECSS program.

The Dayton region contains an extensive workforce trained in the development and execution of enterprise resource planning solutions. Much of the workforce has experience on ERP implementation within the commercial sector and this talent has been utilized on the ECSS program. This subject matter expertise (SME) and experience has expanded over the past several years and does not exist near other Air Force installations. This level of expertise cannot

be duplicated in a short period and could result in additional costs to the government if this work were moved to an additional location. We do not see the value or benefit to the Air Force for potentially considering moving work outside the Dayton region which has the necessary experience for such a complex program.

We appreciate your past support for ECSS and understand the current challenges facing the services. We encourage you to continue support logistics transformation, ECSS and the Dayton workforce as it continues to support the United States Air Force.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



Michael R. Turner  
Member of Congress